(b) what are the findings of Joint Technical Team (JTT); and

(c) what action have so far been taken on the recommendations and findings?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) During the first meeting, the Joint Group of Experts felt that a more detailed technical examination is required and it was recommended to form Joint Technical Team consisting of four members each from India and Bhutan and with provision that any expert or special invitee could be co-opted as and when required. The Joint Technical Team made visits to some of the identified areas and submitted its report on various aspects. The Joint Technical Team studies some sources of sediment load, nature of slides and suggested further studies and preparation of maps to be taken up for deciding remedial measures to be recommended by the JTT. The report findings of the Joint Technical Team are for consideration of the JGE.

River inter linking project

851. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment about shortage of irrigation and drinking water across various regions/parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle this problem; and

(d) what is the current status of the river-inter linking project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The national Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Society under the Ministry of Water Resources, as a part of its studies of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development prepared by Government in 1980 has carried out water balanced studies of river basins/sub-basins of the country keeping in view the scenario of ultimate stage of water resources development in these basins and it has identified 11 river basins/sub-basins as water deficit river basins. NWDA after the above studies has identified 30 links under NPP (16 in

the Peninsular Component & 14 in the Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Report with a view to transfer water from water surplus areas to the water deficit regions of optimum utilization of water resources of the country. NWDA has completed Feasibility Report for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component and 2 links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component. A tripartite agreement was signed among Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005 in respect of one priority link under Peninsular Component *Viz.* Ken-Betwa link for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Proposal for A.P. water sector improvement project

852. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted to the Central Government a project proposal *viz.* AP Water Sector Improvement Project at an estimated cost of about Rs. 3000 crores to be implemented in a period of 5-6 years, with regard to improving irrigation service, delivery and management including modernisation of Nagarjuna Sagar Proejct covering an area of one million hectares of land and pilot projects on new irrigation management etc.;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has been examined in consultation with all concerned including Planning Commission and the Department of Economic Affairs and the Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 2250 crore has since been posed to the World Bank on 18.04.2006.

(c) does not arise.